**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-122. (canceled)

123. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270 ~~shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270 ~~shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269 ~~shown in Figure 187 (SEQ ID NO:269)~~;

~~(f)~~(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269 ~~shown in Figure 187 (SEQ ID NO:269)~~; or

~~(g)~~(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209962;

wherein, the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

124. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270 ~~shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270 ~~shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269 ~~shown in Figure 187 (SEQ ID NO:269)~~;

~~(f)~~(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269 ~~shown in Figure 187 (SEQ ID NO:269)~~; or

~~(g)~~(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209962;

wherein, the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

125. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270 ~~shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~.

126. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:270 ~~shown in Figure 188 (SEQ ID NO:270)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. (canceled)

129. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269 ~~shown in Figure 187 (SEQ ID NO:269)~~.

130. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:269 ~~shown in Figure 187 (SEQ ID NO:269)~~.

131. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209962.

132-134. (canceled)

135. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 124 ~~119~~.

136. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

137. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.

138. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.